

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A label in the form of a layer composite, comprising a transparent plastic film layer (23), a covering layer (25; 27) covering the film layer (23) flatly and a metallization layer (31) arranged between the film layer (23) and the covering layer (25; 27) and covering the latter flatly and completely on both its flat sides, characterized in that the metallization layer (31), at or close to at least one portion of the peripheral edge (35) of the film layer (23) defining the label contour, has a marginal edge (37) which is covered by a sealing strip (41) extending at least over the thickness of the metallization layer (31).

2. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the covering layer is also formed as a plastic film layer (25).

3. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the marginal edge (37) of the metallization layer (31) runs along the sealing strip (41) at a distance from the peripheral edge (35) of the two film layers (23,25), and in that a connecting layer (33), in particular a laminating adhesive layer or a laminating varnish layer or contact adhesive layer, is arranged between the two film layers, extending beyond the marginal edge (37) of the metallization layer (31) and forming the sealing strip (41).

4. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that, between the two film layers (23b, 25b) there is arranged a connecting layer (33b), in particular a laminating adhesive layer or a laminating varnish layer or contact adhesive layer, which extends beyond the marginal edges both of the metallization layer (31b) and the two film layers (23b, 25b) and, in order to form the sealing strip (41b), reaches over the marginal edges of the two film layers (23b, 25b).

5. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, on the side of the metallization layer (31a) facing away from the (first) film layer (23a), the layer composite comprises an adhesive layer (27a) used to affix the label (11a) to an object (1), in that the marginal edge (37a) of the metallization layer (31a) and, if present, the marginal edge of each further layer arranged between the metallization layer (31a) and the adhesive layer (27a) in the layer structure, in particular of a second plastic film layer (25a), run at a distance from the peripheral edge (35a) of the first film layer (23a), and in that the adhesive layer (27a) extends beyond the marginal edge of the metallization layer (31a) and, if appropriate, the further layer and forms the sealing strip (41a).

6. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the metallization layer (31c) at a distance from the peripheral edge (35c) of the film layer (23c) defining the label contour has a gap (45) which forms the marginal edge (37c) to be sealed, which is sealed with the sealing strip (41c).

7. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the gap (45) is formed by a large number of non-cohering regions of the metallization layer.

8. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the sealing strip (41c) is part of a printing ink layer or of a connecting layer (33c) or of an adhesive layer intended to affix the label to an object (1).

9. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in ~~one of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, characterized in that the covering layer is formed as a plastic film layer (25c).

10. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the gap (45) extends through the metallization layer (31c) and at least partly into one (25c) of the two film layers.

11. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the gap (45) extends completely through this one film layer (25c), in particular the second film layer.

12. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in ~~one of claims 6 to 11~~ claim 6, characterized in that the gap (45) is formed as a punch cut, in particular a punch cut that displaces material, or is engraved into the metallization layer or is produced by removing the metallization layer by means of microwave energy or corona discharge or fluid or solid particle jet treatment or brush treatment or etching.

13. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sealing strip (41) extends substantially along the entire peripheral edge of the label (11).

14. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, characterized in that, in the layer composite between the film layer (23) and the metallization layer (31) or on the side of the transparent plastic film layer (23) facing away from the metallization layer (31), there is arranged a printing ink layer (29) forming a decorative imprint.

15. (Currently Amended) The label as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, characterized in that it is formed as an adhesive label, the metallization layer (31) being arranged in the layer composite between the transparent plastic film layer (23) and an adhesive layer (27), in particular a contact adhesive layer, used to affix the label to an object (1).

16. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that at least the plastic film layer (23) forming the outermost layer of the label (11) and facing away from the adhesive layer (27), preferably each plastic film layer of the label (11), is formed as a stretched plastic film layer that can be shrunk back when heated, and in that the label (11) is formed as a battery label which is intended to encase the peripheral surface of a substantially cylindrical body (1) of a dry battery and, with its

edges {19, 21} projecting axially beyond the body (11) of the dry battery, can be shrunk onto the end faces of the latter.

17. (Original) The label as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the plastic film layer (23) is stretched in a direction which, as referred to the battery body (1), runs in its peripheral direction, and in that the sealing strip (41) extends at least along a portion of the peripheral edge of the label (11) that extends in the stretching direction.